

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA MEETS WITH ANTI-TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE IN SATKHIRA

SATKHIRA, FEBRUARY 11 – On February 11, U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena attended a meeting of the Satkhira Anti Trafficking Committee which receives support from the United States government through United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Anti Trafficking program. The meeting was part of USAID's Actions for Combating Trafficking in Persons (ACT) project that empowers communities to prevent human trafficking and promote safe migration through public awareness and training. The U.S. government has supported 400 trafficking survivors through this project. The meeting was attended by local government representatives and local NGO members who highlighted critical anti-trafficking issues and the necessity to expand local government support systems to strengthen coordination to prevent trafficking.

The U.S. government through USAID/Bangladesh began ACT in 2008 to provide support for civil society and the Government of Bangladesh to prevent human trafficking, protect trafficked victims and prosecute perpetrators. The project has led advocacy efforts to expand government oversight, to increase the capture and prosecution of traffickers, and to improve the monitoring of labor recruitment agencies. The United States has worked closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop the new comprehensive law to effectively fight human trafficking, approved by the Parliament in February 2012. The U.S. government continues to provide support to the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop an action plan to combat human trafficking, to effectively implement the new law and to strengthen cooperation among agencies.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$6 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2012 alone, USAID provided more than \$200 million to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh. USAID supports programs in Bangladesh that:

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promote democratic institutions and practices, expand food security and economic opportunity, improve health and education services, and increase resiliency to climate change through adaptation and low carbon development.

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